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Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 24. Management and central support services

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, *inter alia*, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify paragraphs 24.1 to 24.3, 24.6 to 24.8 and 24.22 to 24.29 of programme 24, Administrative services, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and issued in document A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

4. In its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, the General Assembly approved the Secretary-General's proposal to establish the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services. It is proposed to delete subprogramme 24.5, Conference services, under this programme and to include it in the proposed new programme 27, General Assembly affairs and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services.

5. There is no specialized intergovernmental or expert body responsible for reviewing the revisions proposed under this programme.

A. Programme

Title

Replace "Programme 24. Administrative services" with "Programme 24. Management and central support services".

Paragraph 24.1

Replace paragraph 24.1 with the following:

"24.1 The overall objectives of this programme are to provide effective management support for the substantive programmes of

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the Organization and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization in managing administrative, financial and human resources."

Paragraph 24.2 *Replace* paragraph 24.2 with the following:

"24.2 The Secretariat seeks to achieve these objectives by:

"(a) Formulating and implementing improved management policies;

"(b) Providing management guidance to programme managers, so as to enhance the effectiveness of managerial activities throughout the Secretariat;

"(c) Ensuring sound financial management of the resources of the Organization;

"(d) Managing the human resources of the Organization effectively;

"(e) Assuring continued essential services in the areas of security and safety, information technology support and telecommunications, procurement and transportation services and building management, as well as archive and record management services."

Paragraph 24.3 *Replace* the words "Department of Administration and Management" with "Department of Management".

Paragraph 24.4 After paragraph 24.4 *add* a new paragraph 24.5 as follows:

"24.5 The recent adoption by the General Assembly of the Secretary-General's programme of reform in resolutions 52/12 B and 52/220 creates a new direction for this programme and the Department. Under the new management approach, administrative functions will be delegated and carried out where operations take place to a substantially greater degree than before, leaving central management to concentrate on policy development, guidance and monitoring of compliance, while certain services such as central support services will be retained as a part of its functions."

Subprogramme 24.1 Management services

Before the heading "*Financial management, contributions and treasury*" *insert* the following text:

Policy analysis, review and reporting

"24.6 As part of the Secretary-General's programme of reform and in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, a strategic management policy team to be supported by a Management Policy Office was established. The role of the strategic management policy team, or Management Policy Committee, which is under the responsibility of the Under-Secretary-General for Management and the three Assistant Secretaries-General of the Department, is to ensure that management reform is being carried out evenly across the Secretariat.

"24.7 The Management Policy Office will ensure an integrated approach to the Secretary-General's proposals for increasing efficiency and cost-effectiveness throughout the Organization. This will involve the review and analysis of management issues and systems, covering financial and human resources, support services, information technology and other administrative aspects. In addition, the Office will institute a management reporting and monitoring capability.

"24.8 The objectives related to this part of the subprogramme are:

"(a) To provide policy advice and support to the work of the Management Policy Committee, whose role is to ensure that all management reform is carried out;

"(b) To develop reports for senior management, including the Management Policy Committee, and legislative bodies on management reform;

"(c) To develop effective communications and consultations with Member States on management reform issues;

"(d) To lead a programme of simplification of administrative processes, procedures and rules aimed at reducing the burden of administration;

"(e) To develop an effective periodic reporting and monitoring system and related procedures;

"(f) To assist departments in the establishment of a six-month planning and evaluation capacity;

"(g) To provide advice to departments in developing performance measurement standards and analytical performance reports."

Replace the heading "*Financial management, contributions and treasury*" with "*Financial management*"

Paragraphs 24.5 and 24.6

Renumber paragraphs 24.5 and 24.6 as paragraphs 24.9 and 24.10.

Paragraph 24.6 (new paragraph 24.10)

Replace paragraph 24.6 with the following:

"24.10 This part of the subprogramme is implemented by the Contributions Section, Treasury and the Oversight Support Unit in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management. The objectives related to this part of the subprogramme are:

"(a) To facilitate the work of the Committee on Contributions, and of the General Assembly with respect to questions related to the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, through the provision of technical services;

"(b) To improve the timeliness of receipt of assessed and voluntary contributions;

"(c) To enhance the quality of management information, as well as to ensure the earliest possible issuance of periodic and ad hoc reports to Member States on the financial situation;

"(d) To improve the capacity to monitor and forecast the Organization's cash flow and to develop strategies to deal with anticipated problems in that regard;

"(e) To ensure the timely receipt and safe custody of cash resources;

"(f) To increase the earnings potential of funds under management;

"(g) To improve the payment systems in order to streamline processing, reduce costs and enhance security;

"(h) To enhance control mechanisms that protect the payment systems, bank account balances and investments of the Organization;

"(i) To ensure that cash concentration benefits are achieved;

"(j) To ensure the effectiveness of internal control and to maintain close liaison and follow-up with the Board of Auditors, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Joint Inspection Unit, so as to ensure that remedial action is taken whenever and wherever required."

Paragraphs 24.7 and 24.8 *Renumber* paragraphs 24.7 and 24.8 as paragraphs 24.11 and 24.12.

Paragraph 24.8 (new paragraph 24.12) *Replace* paragraph 24.8 with the following:

"24.12 This part of the subprogramme is implemented by the secretariat of the Joint Appeals Board and Joint Disciplinary Committees, the Panels of Counsel and the Panels on Discrimination and Other Grievances in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General. The related objectives are:

"(a) To ensure and facilitate the functioning of a simplified, yet efficient and effective internal justice system in the Secretariat;

"(b) To decide on behalf of the Secretary-General on any appeal by staff members against an administrative decision or against disciplinary action;

"(c) To provide administrative support services to the bodies designated for recourse and disciplinary matters: Joint Appeals Boards, Joint Disciplinary Committees, Grievance Panels and Panels of Counsel;

"(d) To ensure implementation of judgements of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal."

Renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Subprogramme 24.5 Conference services

Delete subprogramme 24.5. It is proposed to transfer the activities of this subprogramme to the proposed new programme 27, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services.